

**Executive Committee for Highway Safety
Ensuring Drivers are Fully Licensed
Working Group Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2004**

Location:

DMV, 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Commissioner Tatum	Stacie Cruz	Wayne Hurder	Rob Foss
Max Tate	Vickie Embry	Greg Fuller	Richard Mullinax
Kevin Lacy	Sgt. Tim Tomczak	Cliff Braam	

Scribe:

Cliff Braam

Minutes:

- The meeting began at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Task I – Action Items

- Wayne was asked at the last meeting to research the issues of issues of suspended, vs. revoked vs. unlicensed drivers and gather general data by age group, sex, race, rural/urban, etc. Also, for unlicensed drivers, how many of these have never had a license as compared to those that have lost them and never reapplied.

Wayne These statistics are very hard to determine from the data that is available due to several reasons. Presently, there are about 1 million drivers that have control numbers. A control number is assigned to a file when the driver information provided can not be matched to driver's license information contained within the database. There is no way to get a good handle on the actual numbers.

Kevin What is the penalty for not having your license on you.

Tim It is a level III misdemeanor. The judge normally issues a fine and that is it. Raleigh police department will arrest individual who do not have their license.

George There are a couple of initiatives presently underway that will be implemented this summer that should help this problem. One involves in car images. This project will begin with the Highway Patrol and will eventually be available to all law enforcement.

DMV is also in the process of "cleansing the data bank" and this should be finished by October 2004.

Kevin one of the over riding issues among al of the working groups is the court systems and how they handle tickets due to work loads, back logs, etc. and the issues associated with reducing the charges.

Wayne Illinois codes vehicles if the driver is operating it with out a valid license.

Tim Most people with out a drivers license are suspended. If they are valid, the

- officer can usually verify.
- Kevin This is a big problem. We have 8 million people in the state, approximately 6 million are licensed so with 1 million showing as suspended, this means that 1/6 of our licensed drivers are suspended?
- Tim We need to change the environment and take the vehicle away when caught without a valid drivers license. Simply revoking the license is not stopping these people from driving.
- Rob Punishment is not a deterrent to change behavior. The certainty that they will be punished if caught is what changes the behavior.
- Tim Need to look at short term impoundment; 1-2 days. Remove the courts from the loop and make this an administrative process.
- Rob The volume of cases being generated by traffic citations simply can not be handled by the court system.

Separation of “Driver Competency”

- Cliff At the first meeting, there was discussion as to whether the group want to separate the issue of “Ensuring drivers are fully competent” from the issue of “Ensuring drivers are fully licensed”. The Increasing driver safety awareness working group has also discussed this. Since the issue of “competent drivers seems to be another across the board issue, do we want recommend to the ECHS that this be broken out into a separate working group?
- Kevin Two different issues as related to a driver being competent. 1) Competency in regards to knowledge of the rules of the road, signs, etc. and 2) Competency in regards should they be driving due to physical or mental conditions.
- Group Decision made to recommend to the ECHS that Competent Drivers be moved to a separate working group.

Task II – Developing and Implementation Plan

- Cliff reminded everyone that the main task of the group was to examine different strategies for alleviating/reducing lane departure type crashes and to present these to the Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS) in the form of an implementation plan to see which ones they wanted to move forward with.
- There was general discussion about the implementation plan and its structure. It has been decided that the implementation plans for the working groups will follow the same general format as those presented in the NCHRP 500 reports.
- The group will take a particular strategy and put enough information together so that when it is presented to the committee, the committee can make an informed decision as to which strategies they would like to see moved forward.

Task III– General Discussion

The group next engaged in discussion centered around potential strategies for addressing our target crashes. A list was generated and assignments were made for individuals to take the basic

strategy and put together an outline as discussed earlier working towards the implementation plan. Listed below are the initial strategies and who is responsible for each.

Strategy	Name
Confiscate vehicles at the time of arrest for drivers with suspended or revoked license.	Tim
Arrest individuals who do not have sufficient information to allow a law enforcement officer to make a positive identification.	Stacey/Tim
Recommend that the issue of "Competent Drivers" be addressed by a stand alone working group.	Kevin
Linking out of state driver's license information automatically with NC information and providing law enforcement personnel better training on how to access and query this information.	Tim
Placing interlock devices on vehicles. Make this process administratively administered instead of judicially.	Rob
Support of the Nation Driver's License Database.	Wayne

Draft Strategies due to Cliff by August 6, 2004.

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Action Items:

Name	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See assignment of strategies to be drafted above.

NEXT MEETING: September 28, 9:00 – 11:00, DMV Office